

WILHELMSTRASSE 100  
SPORFELD

# EXILE PROMENADE

A performative walk by Ada Mukhina

Senatsverwaltung  
für Kultur und  
Gesellschaftlichen Zusammenhalt

BERLIN



Funded by  
the European Union





Three guides take the audience on a performative walk through the streets of Berlin, to places of historical and contemporary exile from Russia, interweaving these with their own exile biographies and different eras of migration.



Meeting point →  
Guide 1 → Guide 2 → Guide 3  
→ Finale





# PREMIERE



The first edition of [Exile Promenade](#) was successfully presented at the Berliner Festspiele in Germany, as part of the festival Performing Exiles in 2023, curated by Matthias Lillienthal in consultation with Rabi Mroué. Twelve performative walks took place during the festival: once in the evening on work days, and twice daily on weekends. Around 300 audience members joined the performative walks in Berlin: 25 spectators on each walk.

REPORTAGE ARTE TV:

[Exilspaziergang: Einblicke in russische Leben](#)



# NEW RUN

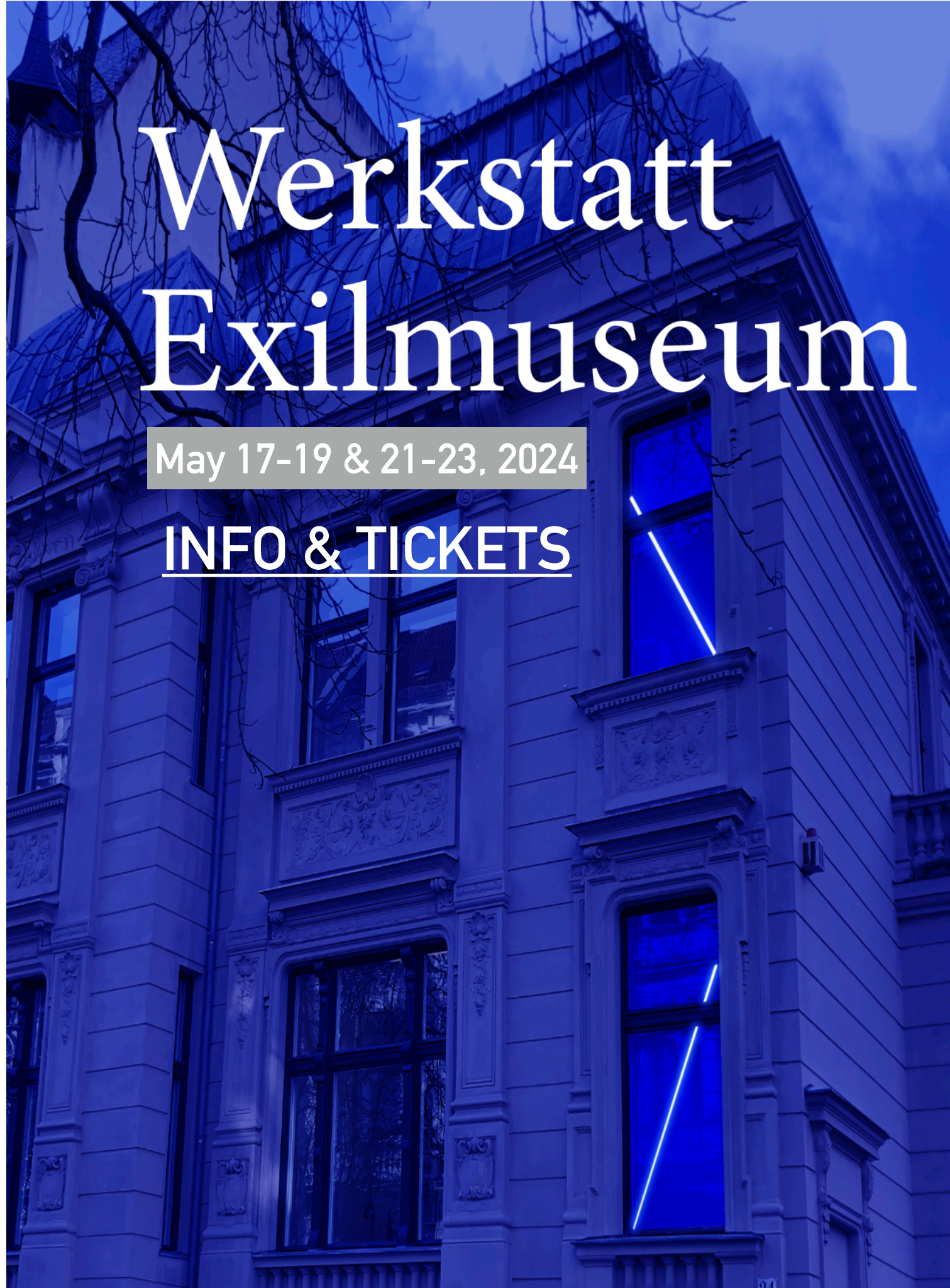
The new edition of the walk is created by the stage director Ada Mukhina in cooperation with the newly opened Werkstatt Exilmuseum. This place is working on the development of the new Exile museum at Anhalter Bahnhof and offers the opportunity to engage with the topic through exhibitions, discussions and other events. The new run is funded by Berlin Senate and the mobility grant “Culture Moves Europe”.

This edition of Exile Promenade introduces a new protagonist: a non-binary composer Alina Anufrienko, who left Russia after its full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Alina will take the audience on a sonic journey through the noise of war propaganda that tries to silence queer, feminist, and antiwar voices.

# Werkstatt Exilmuseum

May 17-19 & 21-23, 2024

INFO & TICKETS







In 1920s, Berlin witnessed the first wave of Russian emigration, numbering 300.000 people: nobility, intellectuals, artists, and clergy left Russian Empire fleeing from the civil war and the new Soviet government. One century after, the story seems to repeat itself. The route of Exile Promenade goes through the streets of the Wilmersdorf and Charlottenburg districts, where emigrants of the 1920s lived in Berlin, enters the Exilmuseum and ends up at the Kurfürstendamm. The new protagonist Alina Anufrienko will be joined by two performers from the first edition of the walk - Grégoire Lopoukhine and Ziliä Qansurà.





"Exile Promenade" critically reflects on the Russian history of exile from today's standpoint, performatively investigates deserted places, broken ties, and lost identities while asking: What is the task of artists in the face of the war and political repressions? Where do we find the strength to resist? And how do we stay in solidarity with other exiled communities?

The non-binary composer, Alina Anufrienko, who left Russia after its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, takes you on a sonic journey through the noise of war propaganda that tries to silence queer, feminist, and antiwar voices. Theater-maker Grégoire Lopoukhine investigates the roots of Russian imperialism by revisiting the library of his aristocratic family who escaped from the Bolsheviks to Paris after the October Revolution a century ago. The visual artist Ziliä Qansurá leads you through her native land of Bashqortostan, historically colonized by Russia, in search of ways for healing the collective trauma and breaking the centuries-old cycle of violence.





“Guide number one is Grégoire Lopoukhine, a theatre maker from Paris who has also staged productions in Russia, who tells ... about his family history and guides us through post-revolutionary [Russian] Berlin – Charlottengrad – from Nabokov to Bely, to the houses and places that have disappeared the same way as the Soviet Union has.” (Cargo – Zeitschrift für Film, Medien und Kultur)

“Playing ping pong on the edge of a playground, the great-grandfather [of Gregoire Lopoukhine] loses the historical battle to Lenin, who is represented by an audience member. It could have turned out differently. Things could always turn out differently. The fight of the exiled artists against fatalism resonates in all three stories. ... The walk is a welcoming gesture to the Western public, who have no idea about the abysses the three guides have to overcome every day.” (nachkritik.de)



“Marriage, born out of the need for resistance, is one of the strategies recommended by Alla Gutnikova, who until two years ago was a cultural studies student in Moscow and part of the leftist student magazine “Doxa”. After a year of house arrest, she fled via Armenia to Germany, which for her was the land of the Holocaust. (Gutnikova says, it’s unimaginable that in eighty years a Ukrainian woman would choose Russia as a land of freedom. Then we walk in circles in the garden of the Exile Museum for several minutes while listening to the names and fates of political prisoners in contemporary Russia through our headphones).”

(Cargo – Zeitschrift für Film, Medien und Kultur)

“At this stage of the walk [with second protagonist Alla Gutnikova], the audience member writing this feels a bit overwhelmed by being asked to demonstrate her solidarity publicly again and again, but immediately feels ashamed of this thought, which stems from the privilege of living in a country where freedom of expression and of the press is paradisiacal in comparison to Russia, and where you can usually choose whether or not you want to take a stand”.

(nachkritik.de)





# PRESS



“We walk around the area surrounding Berliner Festspiele theatre for more than two hours, through sun and rain, until we experience a touching finale at a shopping centre passage with set designer and performer Ziliä Qansurá. ... She has created abstract body parts marked with bruises and traces of blood from wool she brought from her homeland. She presses these to herself to integrate her traumas into her life to make it bearable: her traumas and those of her homeland Bashkortostan – the Russian region where the oil comes from and where most people have no central heating.” ([nachkritik.de](http://nachkritik.de))

“The specific connection to the historical places of part one increasingly dissolves, especially in the third part, with the audio walk deliberately producing montages contrasting between the inner and outer image. On the [shopping boulevard] Kurfürstendamm, Qansurá talks about her home village of 400 souls located in the treeless steppe set amongst the mountains... The city intersects the art that intersects the city.” ([Cargo – Zeitschrift für Film, Medien und Kultur](#))



# TEAM



ADA MUKHÍNA (she/her) is a director and author with *Exile Promenade*. She was born in 1988 in St. Petersburg, lives in Berlin, and works internationally. After completing her law degree, she earned an MA in Advanced Theatre Practice at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London with the support of the Chevening Scholarship. Her recent performances, *Risk Lab*, *How to Sell Yourself To the West*, and *Exile Promenade*, have been presented at the Berliner Festspiele, the Deutsches Theater and the Academy of Arts in Berlin; at Deutschlandfunk and WDR radio; at the Staatstheater Mainz; at Theater Rampe in Stuttgart; at the Camden People's Theatre in London; and at the Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics in Washington, DC. She has been awarded a German Chancellor Fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, a Berlin Fellowship from the Academy of Arts, and a Cité internationale des arts residency in Paris from Institut français.



# TEAM

ANDREJ MIRČEV is a dramaturg with Exile Promenade. He was born in 1979 in ex-Yugoslavia and lives in Berlin. He is a scholar of performance studies, a visual artist and dramaturge. He studied philosophy, history and theatre studies in Zagreb and completed his PhD at the Freie Universität Berlin's International Research Training Group 'Interart Studies'. His research is dedicated to the critical-dialectical dialogue between theory and practice, spatial and visual theory, archives and intermediality. As a guest lecturer he teaches at the Berlin University of the Arts.



ALINA ANUFRIENKO (no pronounce) is a composer and new performer with Exile Promenade. Alina was born in 1985 in Omsk (Siberia), left Russia in 2022 after the start of its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, and has since then been based in Berlin. Alina has gained extensive experience in the international theatre scene, performing at festivals and participating in numerous musical projects, and created music & sound scores for Teatr.doc, the GULAG History Museum, and podcasts for the independent media Novaya Gazeta, whose editor-in-chief received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2021. Alina is the founder of the Laboratory of Documentary Music.



# TEAM



ZILIÄ QANSURÁ is a scenographer and performer with Exile Promenade. She was born in 1992 in Bashkortostan (Russia) and currently resides in Vienna. She works across various disciplines with a focus on collective indigenous practices and handicrafts. Her practice explores the decolonial potential within these practices, particularly around the use of material as a felt. She creates large-scale installations and theater design that address the issues of cultural appropriation and Russification of indigenous cultures. Her daily art process involves turning her observations and reactions into felt sculptures, drawings, and digital art.

GRÉGOIRE LOPOUKHINE is a performer with Exile Promenade. He was born in France in 1989 into a family of post-revolution Russian emigrants. He is a director, author and producer of podcasts based in Paris. He first studied literature at the Sorbonne, then began a career as an actor. With his Compagnie Frontale, he writes and stages his own theatre shows internationally. In his sound studio, Les Yeux dans les Poches, he writes, directs and performs his own fiction works, several of which have won awards, notably Les Histoires pas-sages de la Baba Yaga, a contemporary retelling of Slavic tales, and Entropie, an offbeat science fiction story.







# EXILE PROMENADE

Video trailer

<https://vimeo.com/939609156>

Contact

Email: [exile.promenade@gmail.com](mailto:exile.promenade@gmail.com)